

**TOWN OF NEWFIELDS SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2021**

***Select Board Present: Betsy Coes, Jacquelyn Silvani & Michael Sununu
Others Include: Mary Belanger, Jeff Buxton, Ray Buxton, Win Fream, Joan Harmon,
Brendan Johnston, Michael Kessler, Brian Knipstein, Dave Mason & Jack Parnham***

The Board entered non-public session at 6:28

The Select Board, by motion of Select Board Member Sununu, seconded by Select Board Member Coes and in accordance with RSA91-A:3 (II) (a), to enter into a non-public session for purpose of personnel matter – Police Chief [RSA91-A3(II)(a)]. By roll call vote the Board passed the motion: Coes-Affirmative; Silvani-Affirmative; Sununu-Affirmative

A motion to leave non-public session was made by Betsy and seconded by Michael. The motion was passed and at 7:09 a public session convened.

Call to order at 7:10 pm.

The Select Board reviewed and approved the following items:

Checks Dated	10/29/21:	Payroll Manifest	\$ 20,883.41
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The Board introduced the in-coming Police Chief, Wayne Young, who is currently the Sergeant for Greenland Police department with whom he has worked twenty-two years. Wayne comes to Newfields with 27-years of law enforcement experience. Wayne is married with two children and coaches the American Legion baseball in Exeter. He is looking forward to meeting residents and business owners of Newfields and working with the Select Board. The Board is anticipating a start date Thanksgiving week.

Win Fream attended with fellow Library Trustees - Brendan Johnson & Jack Parnham. Win outlined the library's 2022 budget. The \$64,130.00 budget is \$1,230.00 over last year and includes a staff increase of 2%, phone, internet, and cleaning increases, as well as maintenance to the front steps.

Brian Knipstein, Road Agent, presented his 2022 budget. Brian estimates a total of \$330,600.00 is needed to maintain the roads, brush cutting, drainage, sign and building repairs, paving, plowing and other general maintenance. This estimate also includes a 40% increase for the cost of road salt. Brian is anticipating on using GOEFFR funds to offset some paving costs. If he obtains funding, he will pave from Summer to Swamscott, if not, his budget includes the paving of Pleasant to Summer Street.

Jeff Buxton discussed the Fire Department's 2022 budget for \$86,358. His budget showed a 0% increase from last year. He will be submitting two Warrant Articles in 2022 1) Fire Truck - \$50k; 2) Capital Equipment - \$2k.

Jeff also alerted the Board of a serious staffing issue within the Fire department. The department is understaffed; no new volunteers in four years. He discussed a few ways to entice volunteers. He ruled out full-time personnel, as there is no need for it but would like to pay staff similar to Newmarket for “on duty call” and “pay per call” shifts. Newfields is the only town not paying stipends for calls. He currently has eight volunteers but would like twenty on the roster. In five years, the Town will need to contract with another department for coverage or hire full-time. If the Town was to contract with Exeter, it would likely be around \$300k a year. Unless there is an influx of volunteers, Jeff does not see a way around this issue. Jeff estimated a cost of \$60-65K a year for per call/on call pay, if the Town was to go in that direction. One person, 12 hours a day, five days a week would be \$24k in direct costs, not including other administrative costs. Jeff’s opinion is that it still would not resolve the issue but needs to be addressed.

Dave Mason presented the Conservation Commission budget of \$4,250.00. The \$1,000 increase represents the cost of monitoring of Great Bay (surveying costs etc.).

Michael motioned, seconded by Betsy, to waive the penalty for a late Inventory form for Map 102/52. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board acknowledged receipt of letters from two residents, Hoby Harmon and Michael Kessler regarding an incident that took place recently. Betsy said that while it was not proper behavior; one tends to get emotionally involved and that she, herself, has done worse as a Select Board member.

Michael added, in order to preempt people to push the issue, he wants to be clear that there is not great flexibility in terms of State law as to what Select Board members can and cannot do. There is no formal process of what the board can do based on State Law. It is an issue; he appreciates the correspondence on it; it will go on record and be fully noted.

The Board acknowledged the receipt of the Health Trust Plan but postponed signing so they could take it home to review.

Michael motioned, seconded by Betsy to approve the 10/12/21 Select Board Meeting Minutes as amended. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Select Board decided on the following dates for upcoming meetings:

November 2nd, 9th & 30th.

At 7:58 pm, Michael motioned, seconded by Betsy, to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kisha Therrien